



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Regional Executive Director**
Department Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region

FROM : **The Regional Director**
Environmental Management Bureau
MIMAROPA Region

SUBJECT : **RECOMMENDATION FOR THE REHABILITATION OF
BACUIT BAY AND EL NIDO BAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
EL NIDO, IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN**

DATE : 21 September 2022

Background Information

The marine waters of Bacuit Bay and El Nido Bay in the Municipality of El Nido, Province of Palawan are components of the newly designated Water Quality Management Area here in MIMAROPA Region, the Bacuit-El Nido Bay WQMA. The Bacuit-El Nido Bay WQMA was officially designated as Water Quality Management Area through DENR Administrative Order No. 44 series of 2021 dated December 23, 2021.

One of the justifications of WQMA designation is the continued failing water quality of Bacuit and El Nido Bays. In April 2019, this Office deployed a special monitoring and inspection team in El Nido prior to the official WQMA designation. Some establishments were found to have been discharging directly into the bay and some are those whose wastewater failed to meet the general effluent standards. This activity resulted to the issuances of Notices of Violations and Cease and Desist Orders to erring establishments that are operating without valid discharge permit as well as discharging untreated and partially treated wastewater.

Presented hereunder is the matrix of findings and recommendations made on the inspected firms during the conduct of monitoring last CY 2019.

NO.	NAME OF ESTABLISHMENT / LOCATION	FINDINGS	ACTION TAKEN	CASE UPDATE
1	Joaquinn's Bed and Breakfast Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
2	Anang Balay Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
3	Happiness Beach Bar / Happiness Hostel Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	

4	Marygold Beachfront Inn Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issues CDO dated 11 September 2019	<p>PAB issued CDO dated 09 October 2019</p> <p>PAB issued TLO dated 07 August 2020 valid for 60 days</p> <p>Inspection Report: 07 April 2022</p> <p>- For issuance of NOV No DP No PCO No DENR ID</p>
5	Lally and Abet Beach Cottages Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
6	Rico's Beach Cottages Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
7	Rosanna's Pension Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
8	Entalula Beach Cottages Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
9	Delos Reyes Cottages Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
10	Chislyk Cottages Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
11	Philippine Ports Authority - El Nido Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
12	Sea Cocoon Hotel Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
13	Bulul Garden Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
14	Lagun Hotel Balinsasayaw Rd., Brgy. Maligaya, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	<p>Order dated 07 August 2019. Motion for TLO was received on 13 Aug 2019.</p> <p>R4B comments were received on 23 Oct 2019</p>	<p>IR's</p> <p>Remarks/Recommendation</p> <p>04 April 2022</p> <p>- For periodic monitoring of their compliance to the PAB case issued to them then advise them to file for TLO.</p>

15	Spin Designer Hostel Brgy. Maligaya, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	<p>IR's Remarks/Recommendation 06 April 2022 - For periodic monitoring of their compliance in relation to the CDO/PAB case issued to them and advise them to communicate to the PAB Office as they are already connected to the provincial STP.</p> <p>Order dated 07 August 2019 . Renamed to Oak Drives, request for TLO, solicited comments from R4B on 20 Dec</p>	Submitted Motion for Issuance of Temporary Lifting Order for sampling purposes dated 24 June 2022.
16	Milan Grace Inn Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued Interim CDO dated 11 September 2019	<p>04 October 2019 PAB Order</p> <p>Inspection Report: 07 April 2022 - The establishment has been operationg since January 2022. -They requested for TLO - To draft them a letter reminding them to comply with their receieved PAB Order and advise them to request for TLO from PAB.</p>
17	A Place to Remember Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
18	The Organic Spa Facial Care and Body Works Inc and Café Althena Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
19	Nido View Deck Hotel Brgy. Maligaya, El Nido, Pal.		Order dated 07 August 2019.Letter request for TLO was received on 20 Aug 2019. R4B comments was received on 26 Nov. 2019.	<p>IR's Remarks/Recommendation 01 February 2022 - For periodic monitoirng of their commitment to PAB and remind them to request TLO before the PAB</p>
20	Tao Lost Boys, Inc. Corong-corong, El Nido, Pal.		Issued Order dated 23 August 2021	
21	L'Assiette Restaurant & Tapas Bar Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
22	Periking Pensionne Calle Hama St, Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
23	Shipwrecked Pension Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
24	Pukka Beach Hotel Brgy. Corong-corong, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	

25	Forever Blessed Inn Serena St., Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
26	El Nido Boutique Artcafe Sirena St., Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued Order dated 10 May 2021 Paid the Administrative Penalty amounting 19,5000.00 dated 16 June 2021	Issued Resolution dated 09 August 2021
27	Aqua Travel Lodge Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
28	Habibi Restaurant and Shisha Café Hama St., Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
29	Dayunan Tourist Inn Brgy. Buena Suerte, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
30	Rainforest Beach Hotel Hama St., Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued Order dated 11 September 2019	Inspection Report: 06 April 2022 - The establishment is closed upon inspection and no one was interviewed. - No CDO Tarp was observed in their area. - For periodic monitoring of their compliance to the pab case issued to them and to file for TLO. PAB affirm Interim CDO dated 04 October 2019
31	Frangipani Resort Brgy. Corong-corong, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
32	Lugadia Beach Cottages Brgy. Corong-corong, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
33	El Nido Royal Palm Inn Brgy. Corong-corong, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit		with PAB Case

34	St. John Island View Pensionne Brgy. Corong-corong, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued Order dated 11 September 2019	<p>PAB issued CDO dated 04 October 2019</p> <p>Proponent filed Motion for issuance of TLO dated 18 September 2020</p> <p>Inspection Report: 20 April 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The establishment is operational and has 13 rooms, play area, parking lot and bar with a capacity of 40 max guest in a 560 sqm total land - Expired PCO - Expired DP - Deep well (source of water) - For periodic monitoring of tgeir compliance to the pab case issued to them and to file for TLO.
35	Joyful Guest House Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
36	Rovics Pension House Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued Order dated 11 September 2019	<p>PAB affirm Interim CDO dated 04 October 2019</p> <p>Inspection Report: 06 April 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The establishment is operational - Source of water is from the deepwell - They have STP installed on 2020 that costed the 750,000.00. No seal was observed in their STP Outlet. - For periodic monitoring of their compliance to the pab case issued to them and to file for TLO.
37	Tandikan Beach Cottages Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	Issued with Notice of Violation	
38	Bulskamp Inn Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Pal.	No Discharge Permit	<p>Issued Order dated 15 February 2022 (RA9275)</p> <p>Paid the penalty amounting 39,000.00 dated 01 May 2022 (RA9275)</p>	<p>Issued Resolution dated 18 March 2022 (RA9275)</p>
39	Sea Jane Restauramt Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Palawan	Exceedance	Issued ORDER dated 11 November 2019	<p>PAB issued CDO dated 11 November 2019</p> <p>Inspection Report: 07 May 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The establishment is closed and in without operation, also no CDO tarp is posted in their area. - For periodic monitoirng of their commitment to PAB and remind them to request TLO before the PAB

40	Sea Cocoon Hotel Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Palawan	Exceedance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed system diagram as built. • Position pper on sampling method. • Provide sampling port. Submitted 10 days from today. • Request for DENR resampling. 	
41	Lally and Abet Beach Cottages Brgy. Masagana, El Nido, Palawan	Exceedance		

The trend monitoring data of the coastal waters of Bacuit Bay in the last five years is likewise shown below:

Fecal Coliform (MPN/100mL)						
Station Identification	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	WQG
Masagana	87	104	315	2,890	246	100
Maligaya	26	65	62	1,390	214	100
Buena Suerte	35	182	166	1,829	841	100
Lugadya	5	14	60	267	187	100

The following table shows the trend results for the outfalls / drainage canals

Fecal Coliform (MPN/100mL)				
Station Identification	2019	2020	2021	WQG
Corong Corong Outfall	107,934	106,098	908	100
El Nido Estero Outfall	128,651	85,616	46,882	100
Masagana Outfall	819,808	613,071	5,073	100
Cadlao Outfall	12,159	15,580	6,854	100
Masagana II	Newly established station		64,805	100

The following table shows the trend results for the tourist island destinations

Fecal Coliform (MPN/100mL)				
Station Identification	2019	2020	2021	WQG
Pinagbuyutan Island	9.45	19.79	3.46	100
Cathedral Cave	1.28	2.60	1.42	100
Snake Island	5.37	30.71	3.58	100
Codugnun Island	3.24	11.90	5.21	100
Entalula Island	2.84	10.01	3.41	100
Simizu Island	3.43	4.52	3.02	100
Big Lagoon	2.77	3.08	2.55	100
Small Lagoon	3.57	2.17	1.56	100
Seven Commando Island	7.80	9.98	2.51	100
Helicopter Island	4.13	3.44	1.73	100
Pasandigan Beach	5.51	11.30	5.06	100


Paradise Island	2.06	10.23	2.30	100
Bukal Beach	2.39	2.40	2.28	100
Cadlao Lagoon	3.71	3.46	4.85	100
Hidden Beach	2.90	2.90	1.40	100
Matinloc Shrine	2.36	4.70	2.10	100
Talisay Beach	3.98	14.22	1.66	100
Secret Beach	4.60	8.30	1.52	100
Secret Lagoon	13.34	18.35	3.30	100
Papaya Beach	4.97	12.96	2.13	100

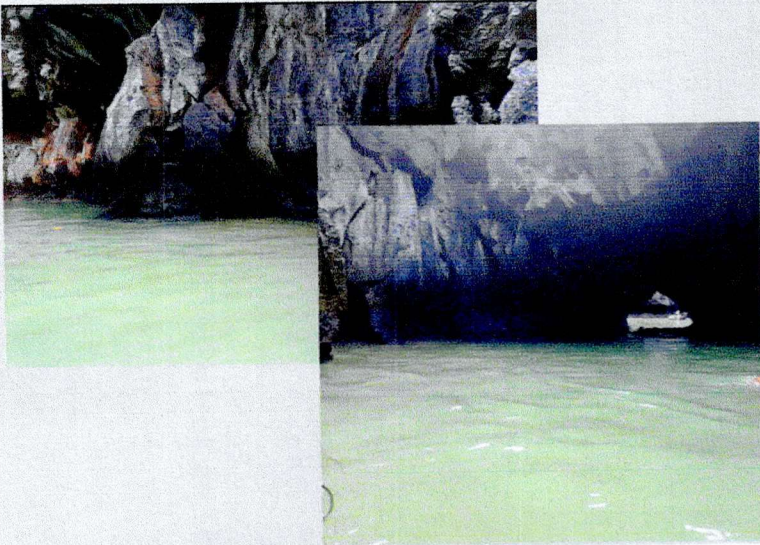
ACTIONS TAKEN

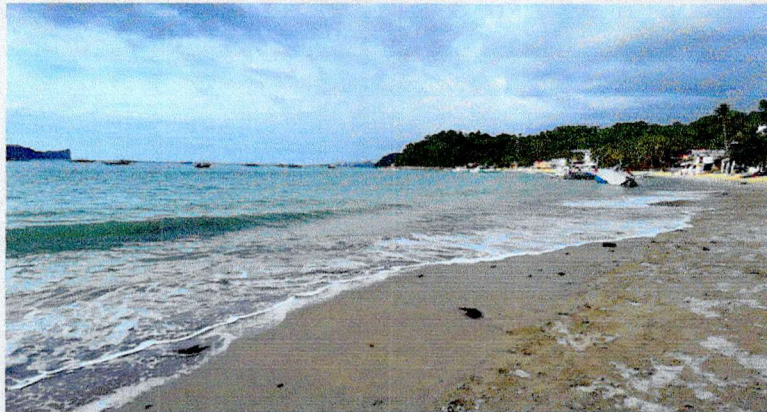

Currently, this Office is on the process of creating the Governing Board for the Bacuit-El Nido Bays Water Quality Management Area (BENB WQMA). Three meetings were already held to meet the business sector, the local academe and the representatives from the national government agencies, local government units and non-government organizations. Just recently, the WQMA interim secretariat led the future members of the governing board to an appreciation course to make an ocular visit in the jurisdiction of this WQMA with focus on the problem areas of the two marine waterbodies, Bacuit Bay and El Nido Bay.

The future members were able to go around the coastal shores, discharge outfalls and some of the problem island destinations within the WQMA. Several observations were recorded as will be presented hereunder

Issues / Concerns	Remarks
<p>Source of Potable Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bulalacao Falls – the only source of MEEDO for water system ➤ Water system: tested for E. coli through Colilert (from DOH) by location sanitation office ➤ Other sources: inside Timberland <p>Ground Water Extraction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No NWRB permit, deep well not tested by local sanitation office for potability ➤ Not all business establishments are connected to MEEDO and therefore not all tap sources are tested for E. coli ➤ Increasing cases of stomach flu ➤ Increasing cases of skin rashes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Insufficient Source – Bulalacao Falls ➤ Need for more identified waterbodies for MEEDO water system ➤ Groundwater / Deep Well must be tested for E. coli

Issues / Concerns	Remarks
<p>Presence of solid wastes along Corong Corong</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Area has become docking area for tourist boats ➤ Corong Corong outfall – contributor of E. coli

Issues / Concerns	Remarks
<p>Turbid color; almost stagnant;</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lagoon has been receiving solid wastes during habagat ➤ Possible closure of Secret Lagoon ➤ To limit tourist

Issues / Concerns	Remarks
<p>Algal Bloom in coastal areas of Buena Suerte</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nitrates and Phosphates are within WQG as per analysis ➤ Fecal Coliform is still above the maximum acceptable limit
Issues / Concerns	Remarks
<p>Reclaimed portions of El Nido Estero</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DPWH Project ➤ Seawall ➤ Flow of El Nido Estero is partially impeded

Furthermore, the following tables show the latest fecal coliform test results of the BENB WQMA

Station Identification	February 15, 2022	March 21, 2022	April 19, 2022	May 16, 2022	June 07, 2022
Masagana	N/A	179	1400	63	34658
Maligaya	N/A	20	45	68	1112
Buena Suerte	N/A	17	460	490	1024
Lugadya	N/A	20	2400	230	82
Vanilla Cove Beach III	1.7	17	540	220	9
Vanilla Cove Beach II	40	17	16001	140	1071
Vanilla Cove Beach I	2	1.8	920	130	160
Corong-Corong Cove III	13	13	7.8	1300	160
Corong-Corong Cove II	7.8	20	49	1100	631
Corong-Corong Cove I	4.5	20	33	790	309

Station Identification	March 21, 2022	April 19, 2022	May 16, 2022	June 07, 2022
Corong Corong Outfall	179	78	1,100	432
El Nido Estero Outfall	920,000	130,000	No sample taken	241,961
Masagana Outfall	680	No discharge	17,000	No discharge
Cadlao Outfall	No water discharge	130	No water discharge	No water discharge
Masagana Outfall II	site not visible	16,000	5,400	48,399

RECOMMENDATIONS

The ambient monitoring team of this Office reported the result of the activity in El Nido. Based on the report, some areas of the beach of Bacuit Bay and some familiar tourist island destinations and lagoons need to prohibit the entry or use of stakeholders and tourists.

Hereunder are the recommendations made based on the results of monitoring by this Office, to wit:

1. Posting of signage, “ Strictly No Swimming Due to Risk of High Fecal Coliform Count” on the three urban barangays.
2. Reduce into 70% the incoming tourist on the following destinations like Big Lagoon, Small Lagoon, Secret Lagoon and Shimizu.
3. All outfalls shall be directly connected into the centralized sewer facilities for treatment.
4. Conduct a thorough study to be commissioned by the Governing Board on the reduction of tourist banca/vessel flying in the area.
5. Fish landing port facility shall be subjected for discussion in the upcoming WQMA board meeting including the DPWH.

Several corals were also observed to be crushed in some areas of Miniloc Island and Pinagbuyutan Island. The best option that could be recommended so as not to affect the tourism industry too much would be to limit the arrival of tourists in these areas.

Please be assured that this Office shall continue to enforce more stringent laws and policies on Clean Water Act and Ecological Solid Waste Management Act more especially now that the area is already a WQMA. The WQMA Focal Person also intends to meet with all the organizations of local tourist guides and operators of local tourist motorboats to further educate them on how to better disseminate the objectives of the WQMA to all the tourists that they will handle.

For the information and consideration of the Regional Executive Director on the recommendations made by this Office.


JOE AMIL M. SALINO


IIS No. R4B-2022-012470

